

Appl. No. : 09/773,281
Filed : January 31, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite that one-dimensional representations include a string of atoms where each atom has a selected type, a selected width, and a selected position along the string. Similarly, Claim 30 has been amended to recite that atoms are associated with a selected type, a selected width, and a selected position along a one-dimensional string of atoms. In addition, Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite that the comparing step includes aligning one-dimensional representations, evaluating the amount of overlap, and identifying a molecule likely to have a chemical behavior. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification, for example, on page 4, lines 13-15; page 6, lines 23-25; page 13, line 28 to page 14, line 10; page 14, line 26 to page 15, line 9; and original Claims 3, 6, 14, 15, and 16.

Claims 4, 7, and 8 have been amended to make the claim language consistent with the language used in amended Claim 1. Claim 18 has been amended to be made dependent on Claim 1. Claim 31 has been amended to make the claim language consistent with the language used in amended Claim 30. Claims 31-33 have been amended to correct a typographical error in the preambles. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 12-17, 19-21, 23-29, and 34-35 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing the claimed subject matter in a divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application. Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 18, 22, and 30-33 remain pending.

Double Patenting

The Examiner maintained the provisional rejection of the claims for Double Patenting. Application No. 09/770,510 has now been abandoned. As such, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the provisional double patenting rejection.

Rejections under § 102

The Examiner maintained rejections of Claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,453,246 (Agrafiotis, et al.). “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” M.P.E.P. § 2131 (quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of*

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California, 814 F.2d 621, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). The pending claims now refer to one-dimensional representations comprising a string of atoms having a selected type, selected width, and a selected position. Agrafiotis does not disclose one-dimensional strings of atoms where each atom is characterized by these characteristics. Furthermore, method Claims 1, 22, and their respective dependent claims recite aligning one-dimensional representations, evaluating overlap between the atoms in the representations, and identifying a molecule as likely to have a chemical behavior. Agrafiotis does not disclose evaluating an amount of overlap between two one-dimensional representations. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 18, 22, and 30-33 are not anticipated by Agrafiotis.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and request a timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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